Production and export of quality cotton

3175. SHRIRUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to take steps to encourage production and export of quality cotton at internationally competitive prices;

(b) if so, whether the ceiling for providing funds for development of the industry under textile upgradation fund has been removed;

(c) whether the Rs. 80,000 crore Indian textile industry is losing its edge;

(d) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(e) the steps Government propose to take in this regard; and

(f) to what extent the steps taken by the Government have improved the production and export of quality cotton to meet the internationally competitive prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJA YA KUMAR): (a) and (f) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, the Government launched in February, 2000, Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC); the mission consists of four mini-missions with details as under:

Mini Mission	Objective	Implementing Agency	Ninth Plan Outlay (1999-2002)-Centre share (Rs. m crore)
I	Cotton Research and Technology Generation	Indian Council of Agricultural Research	40.00
II	Dissemination of Technology	Department of Agriculture & Cooperation	34931
III	Development of market infrastructure	Ministry of Textiles	42.75
IV	Modernisation of ginning & pressing factories	Ministry of Textiles	18.75

The implementation of Technology Mission on Cotton would not only improve the productivity and quality of cotton but also reduce the cost of cultivation making Indian Cotton competitive.

(b) No ceiling has been prescribed for providing funds for modernization of the industry under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme.

(c) to (e) Cotton Textile Exports have been showing an increasing trend; the details for the last three years are as follows:

(in million US Dollar)

Item	1998-99	199SMX)	200001
Cotton yarn, Fabrics and Made-ups	2771.76	3019.95	3499.60
Read made Garments of Cotton including Accessories	314729	3247.41	3926.63
TOTAL:	5919.05	626736	742623

Enhancing employment opportunities of SCs/STs in textiles sector

3176. VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Article 46 of the Constitution directs the State to promote with special care economic and other interests of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular of the SCs and STs so as to protect them from social injustice and exploitation and to overcome the prevailing deep rooted social prejudices and historical economic handicaps suffered by them; and

(b) if so, the steps taken for enhancing employment opportunities and economic empowerment of SCs/STs in textile sector so as to being them on the main stream of our national life by this Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIV. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In terms of the directions/instructions issued from time to time by Government for the welfare and upliftment of weaker sections of the people and, in particular of SCs/STs, various identified central sector schemes have been earmarked/undertaken in the various sectors of Textile Industry for creating employment opportunities and economic growth of weaker sections including